



Week 5 Assignment

Overview

Throughout this course, we have examined the role and responsibilities of an educational technology leader in the 21st century information landscape. In Week 1, we looked at educational technology in terms of the Texas Long-Range Plan for Technology, the Technology Applications TEKS, and the Technology Applications Inventory. Our focus in Week 2 was on using data to make informed decisions and gathering data on educational technology through the Texas STaR Charts. Week 3's focus was on the needs of the "digital natives" we serve, online learning communities, and expectations for educators. In Weeks 4 and 5, we discussed online safety and the social, legal, and ethical issues confronting today's digital-age educators, students, and parents.

For your Week 5 assignment, you will consider the outcomes of this course and the extent to which the outcomes will influence your role as an educational technology leader in your school.

Follow these steps to complete your Week 5 assignment:

- Reflect on what you have learned in this course.
- Assume a school leadership role as an educational technology campus facilitator or as the district educational technology director. From that vantage point, compose a 150-word response to each of the guiding questions provided.
- Write reflectively instead of in question-and-answer style.
- Submit your reflections by the end of Week 5.

Rubric

Use the following Rubric to guide your work on the Week 5 Assignment.

| Tasks ↓ | Accomplished 5 The evidence suggests that this work is a "Habit of Mind." The educator is ready to mentor others in this area. | Proficient 4 The evidence suggests that performance on this work matches that of a strong educator. | Needs Improvement 3 The evidence does not yet make the case for the educator being proficient at this task. |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---|
| Course Reflection | Student composes 150-word reflection on each question provided; reflections demonstrate extensive knowledge of course content. | Student composes 150-word reflections on 3-4 of the questions provided; reflections demonstrate adequate knowledge of course content. | Student composes two fewer reflections, and/or reflections exhibit a lack of understanding of course content. |
| Assignment Mechanics | Responses are relevant to course content; no errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation. | Responses are relevant to course content; few errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation. | Responses do not reflect knowledge of course content, lack clarity and depth, and/or include multiple errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation, including APA errors. |

Week 5 Assignment: Course Reflections

What outcomes had you envisioned for this course? Did you achieve those outcomes? Did the actual course outcomes align with those that you envisioned?

After reading the syllabus when the course started, I envisioned learning the details to being the technology leader on my campus. I am the Campus Instructional Technologist on my campus and expected to have a high knowledge base for my position to keep teachers abreast of current trends in technology. Concepts of Educational Technology reaffirmed that I have been on the right track these years in my position. I help teachers with innovative technology for their classrooms while ensuring it is appropriate for their students developmentally. I wanted to learn new ideas to use with my teachers but I at least realized that the content I have been using with my campus and district is aligned properly.

When reading the syllabus, I was excited to be able to learn more about 21st century schools, web ethics, Texas Long Range Plan for Texas, and strategies for evaluating and shaping the usefulness of professional development. Now that the course is over, I have a better knowledge base of this information and can utilize it with my teachers.

To the extent that you achieved the outcomes, are they still relevant to the work that you do in your school? Why or why not?

All the content of this course was relevant to my work experience on a daily basis. One very important topic covered was the Texas Long Range Plan for Technology. I have worked with the Texas Long Range Plan for Technology but appreciated the depth to which we were able to learn about the plan. I truly appreciated learning the connections of what the Long Range Plan has affected in Texas. As a public school teacher and technology leader, I always knew we had to give teachers the STaR chart and analyze the data. After week 2 I was able to truly analyze our school and district's data. Before, I would just gear professional development to our lowest scores. Now I understand that the Texas Long Range Plan and its connection to the STaR chart. I completely changed the professional development on our campus due to the research and learning that occurred in week 2. I can now completely work with teacher on online learning and its advantages without hesitancy due to lack of knowledge.

What outcomes did you not achieve? What prevented you from achieving them?

Everything discussed or in the readings, were part of my work experience. I would not have minded learning more strategies for evaluating and shaping the usefulness of professional development as stated in the syllabus. That aspect will probably be more in depth in another course. I have many courses to go and cannot expect everything discussed in depth in one class. But, since that is the a large focus of my current position at my school, I am anxious to learn more about creating effective professional devepment.

Cyber ethics were touched on in the readings and during course videos. The readings discussed what the downfall to not teaching cyber ethics and the videos discussed what they were. I wanted more information on how to create a program for my district or at least my campus. Again, I am sure more discussion will happen in my future courses. I cannot expect in depth in one course on every topic.

Were you successful in carrying out the course assignments? If not, what prevented or discouraged you?

On average, I was successful with my assignments. One aspect that discouraged me was that assignments took two and a half to three weeks for grading. I was not sure if I was on the right track and had to assume how I was writing and responding was appropriate. In all my pre and postgraduate studies, this was my first online course. Since there was no feedback except after grading, it was a very disconnected feeling. I was pretty much on my own through the entire course. I would email my coach to get some added details on a few topics from assignments that seemed generic but would have to wait several days for a response. I completely understand the coach has many students they were helping and had a large course load themselves. In a classroom environment, I can ask a question, and not have to wait days or even weeks for feedback. It was an eye opening experience.

What did you learn from this course...about yourself, your technology and leadership skills, and your attitudes?

I needed to know that the topics I was choosing for professional development sessions at my school were correct. I also desired to know the trends I have been working with teachers on were accurate. During this course, I valued finding I aligned with state expectations. My principal also appreciated finding the changes made in my professional development. She finds importance in quantitative research and the STaR chart helped her understand the growth in our school.

I enjoyed learning more in depth research of technology integration. My favorite readings were from Marc Prensky. I met him last year and heard him speak. In the past I used his "Digital Immigrants, Digital Natives" as a forum for my teachers. They would read the article and first find ways they were digital immigrants then find ways their students were natives. After reading so many more of his articles as assignments for this course, I found it very reaffirming for me.